



***Mayor Coleman's 2007 Proposed Saint Paul City Budget:
Putting Saint Paul Back on Track***

Parks and Recreation

Overview

The Recreation Service Section of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will reorganize service delivery around the principles of 1) meeting the needs of Saint Paul residents, 2) flexibility in staffing and facilities including using all of the recreation centers and other community facilities resulting in more weekend and evening hours for the public, 3) placing the right people skills in the right positions to meet expressed needs including mobile teams that will move throughout the City with special equipment and special training.

Why is the Mayor proposing this reorganization?

Mayor Coleman is committed to strengthening our commitment to service in all levels of City government. As a result, Mayor Coleman is proposing a bold initiative that will improve service delivery and bring our nationally recognized Parks and Recreation services to more of our residents.

How will it work?

There will be five (5) service teams (geographically based) comprised of a coordinator, 4 lead programmer specialists and an on site management team having staff assigned to all of the existing 42 recreation centers. The specialists will assess the needs and service gaps and then develop more comprehensive programs and services by using the expertise and time for each of their specialties. These focused areas include:

- Coordinating, scheduling, and supervising all building and outdoor facilities within the service area;
- Programming learning, family, arts and special interest programs;
- Programming health, fitness and athletics activities and services and related events.
- Directly overseeing the operations of a large recreation center.

A sixth citywide team will provide two unique services;

- Mobile Recreation includes a trained team using special equipment (ie. bounce castle, art kits, mobile climbing wall, athletic gear). This team provides outreach services at recreation centers, city parks, libraries, non-profit agencies, housing areas, schools, etc. This team coordinates with Library staff and other community groups to provide special activities when and where needed.
 - A "Go Team" for responsive recreation provides special staffing needs when situations arise that require additional, specially trained leadership skills. The "Go Team" would be available to rapidly respond to any area of the City that needed additional staffing help:
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1. If we were having problems with a large group of teens just hanging around a center looking for "things to get in to", we would send additional staff to directly monitor their behavior and/or to engage them in discussion in order to try and provide specific activities that would appeal to them.

2. If we had a report of individuals who were frequenting some of our outside passive play areas, outdoor basketball courts or picnic areas and either creating an intimidating presence or suspected of using illegal drugs, we would send the "Go Team" to again directly monitor their behavior and engage them in discussion.

3. If there was a report that children were being taunted/harassed by others as they walked home after school, we would send members of the "Go Team" to work directly with the neighborhood school staff and the Saint Paul Police Department in order to create an outside recreation staff presence that would help discourage improper behavior.
